

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 04739

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TAGS: PGOV, PINR, AU

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN UN AMBASSADOR JANKOWITSCH AND HIS
POLITICAL AMBITIONS
REF: STATE 128953

1. SUMMARY. SHIFT FROM UN IN NEW YORK TO OECD IN PARIS OF
AUSTRIAN UN AMBASSADOR JANKOWITSCH REPORTEDLY IS RELATED
TO JANKOWITSCH'S CONTINUING AMBITION TO BECOME EVENTUALLY
AUSTRIA'S FOREIGN MINISTER. ACCORDING TO ONE AUSTRIAN
SOURCE, JANKOWITSCH IS SETTING STAGE FOR POSSIBLE CANDIDACY
FOR ELECTION TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN 1979 AS STEPPING STONE
TO BECOMING FOREIGN MINISTER IN POST-KREISKY ERA. END
SUMMARY.

2. AUSTRIAN UN AMBASSADOR PETER JANKOWITSCH, WHO IS BEING
REASSIGNED TO PARIS AS AUSTRIA'S PERMREP TO OECD, CONTINUES
TO WORK AT AND CALCULATE PERCENTAGES IN ACHIEVING HIS
EVENTUAL GOAL OF BECOMING AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER,
ACCORDING TO AN AUSTRIAN SOURCE WHO HAS KNOWN HIM FOR MANY
YEARS AND WHO MET HIM RECENTLY.

3. TIMING OF JANKOWITSCH'S MOVE FROM NEW YORK TO PARIS
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(TWO HOURS' FLIGHT TIME TO VIENNA) IS RELATED TO THAT
ULTIMATE GOAL. JANKOWITSCH APPARENTLY HAD HOPED -
INCORRECTLY - THAT CHANCELLOR KREISKY WOULD GIVE HIM
FONMIN PORTFOLIO WHEN KIRCHSCHLAEGER WENT ON TO BECOME
PRESIDENT IN 1974.

4. HOWEVER, TWO SUBSEQUENT DISAPPOINTMENTS -- APPOINTMENT

BY KREISKY CONSECUTIVELY OF NONSOCIALISTS BIELKA AND PAHR TO POST -- HAVE CONVINCED JANKOWITSCH THAT HE MUST BECOME MORE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN AUSTRIAN DOMESTIC POLITICAL SCENE TO BE READY TO MAKE STRONG BID FOR POSITION WHEN KREISKY

ERA COMES TO END. LATTER PROSPECT IS UNLIKELY FOLLOWING NEXT NATIONAL ELECTIONS IN 1979, BUT PROBABLY WILL TAKE PLACE IN 1982 OR 1983 WHEN, ACCORDING TO KREISKY'S MOST RECENT COMMENTS, HE WOULD PLAN TO GIVE UP CHANCELLORSHIP.

5. ONE SCENARIO BEING CONSIDERED BY JANKOWITSCH INVOLVES HIS BECOMING CANDIDATE FOR SEAT IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN OCTOBER 1979 NATIONAL ELECTIONS. JANKOWITSCH REPORTEDLY HAS CLOSE TIES WITH SEVERAL YOUNGER KEY TOP LEADERS OF SOCIALIST PARTY -- CENTRAL SECRETARIES BLECHA AND MARCH, PARTY VICE CHAIRMAN GRATZ AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FLOOR LEADER FISCHER -- ALL OF WHOM ARE WELL ESTABLISHED IN LOCAL VIENNESE POLITICS AND COULD PROVE USEFUL IN SUPPORTING A JANKOWITSCH CANDIDACY.

6. PROSPECTS OF JANKOWITSCH BECOMING CANDIDATE WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY ENHANCED IF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY VETERAN AND SOCIALIST FOREIGN POLICY SPOKESMAN PROFESSOR CZERNITZ WERE TO FOLLOW UP HIS DEPARTURE FROM PRESIDENCY OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND FROM PARTY EXECUTIVE BOARD WITH DECISION NOT TO CONFIDENTIAL

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RUN FOR REELECTION IN 1979. A CZERNITZ DEPARTURE FROM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WOULD REQUIRE SELECTION OF NEW FOREIGN POLICY SPOKESMAN, MAKING JANKOWITSCH, IF ELECTED TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, A LOGICAL CHOICE FOR THE JOB, GIVEN HIS BROAD KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

7. BIG STUMBLING BLOCK, HOWEVER, TO JANKOWITSCH'S SELECTION AS CANDIDATE WITH GOOD PROSPECT OF GETTING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEAT WOULD BE OPPOSITION OF PARTY RIGHT-WING AMONG SENIOR PARTY LEADERS AND MIDDLE LEVELS OF PARTY APPARATUS. LATTER TWO CATEGORIES CONSIDER JANKOWITSCH TO BE TOO LEFTIST AND TOO CONCERNED ABOUT THIRD WORLD FROM DOMESTIC POLITICAL VIEWPOINT, PARTICULARLY IF, AS IT NOW APPEARS LIKELY, SOCIALISTS WILL FACE MORE DIFFICULT CHALLENGE IN 1979 THAN IN 1975 IN HOLDING ON TO THEIR ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT. WOLF

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